

## Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources

Short Statement by the Government of Sudan on Water and Sanitation Commitments for the first Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) High Level Meeting and Water Ministers Dialogue, April 22-23, 2010, Washington DC, USA

### Introduction

Sudan is among the few countries that has experienced declining access to safe water and sanitation during the last two decades. This situation is largely attributed to increase in population growth, instability due civil conflicts in Southern Sudan and Darfur region, imposed economic sanction, and poor management of existing facilities.

Approximately 27 percent of urban and 46 percent of rural populations in North Sudan do not have access to a minimum of 20 litres per capita per day within a distance of 1,000 meters based on current official data of Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources. The gap in rural-to-urban sanitation coverage has also widened, with 65 percent of urban and 26 percent of rural inhabitants using improved sanitary facilities. An estimated 65 percent of primary schools are without adequate water and 50 percent without adequate sanitation facilities with consequent negative impact upon school attendance, especially for girls.

The Sudan economy suffered from serious bottlenecks and challenges in early nineties, the most prominent of which were the civil war, natural disasters, deterioration of terms of trade, deterioration of the exchange rate and the inflation, besides the lack of stability of investment plans and programs. The impact of these factors has negatively affected the economic performance of the country in general and the water and sanitation sector in particular.

Since early 2003 the situation has improved as the oil revenues started to positively impact on the overall status of the economy. The Federal Ministry of Finance has consistently increased the allocations for the water supply components to reach 120 million US Dollar for the 2009. However, allocations for sanitation have always been insignificant and mostly provided by government and donors for the emergency response in Darfur and three transitional areas.

The country has instituted a number of laws, rules and regulations concerning water resources in general, and water supply and sanitation in particular.

### A Political Prioritization for Water and Sanitation

- Leadership:** Water and sanitation is considered as one of highest priorities for Government of National Unity (GoNU) Sudan. In 2009, under the Directive of the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in conjunction with the Ministries of Irrigation and Water Resources, and Health, organized a two-day workshop on "safe water and adequate sanitation for all" with participation of high officials involved in water, sanitation and hygiene programme to establish coherent relationship with health programme. One of the key decisions agreed during the workshop has been that Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources will be fully responsible for water and sanitation at federal level through Public Water Cooperation (PWC).
- Commitment/Endorsements:** Sudan has made commitment to SWA-Global framework for Action and fully endorses the guiding principles of SWA. Besides, GoNU Sudan is committed to the AU Sharm El Sheikh and AMCOW EThekwini declaration on sanitation and will give due consideration to establish specific public sector budget allocations for sanitation and hygiene **programs of a** minimum of 0.5% of GDP for sanitation and hygiene progressively. Further commitment has been made for scaling up sanitation with Khartoum declaration signed by six Federal Ministers as one of the key outputs from National Sanitation workshop held in July 2009.
- Budget Priority:** Although external funding was very limited, government made additional allocations to the sector from 2002-2009. Allocations in 2009 reached about US \$ 120 million.
- Improvement of government-led sector coordination:** National steering Committee (NSC) for Water and Sanitation, chaired by DG, Public Water Corporation has been established to lead the coordination for the development of sector policies and strategies. PWC has been designated as a coordinating body for all external foreign assistance and loans for the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. National coordination unit at PWC with support from UNICEF is responsible for sector coordination, monitoring and evaluation of WES programme activities. Similar coordination mechanisms are operational at state levels.

## **B. Strengthening Evidence-based Decision-Making**

1. **GLAAS surveys:** Sudan commits itself to sharing of appropriate sector information with the Global Annual Assessment of the water and sanitation sector (GLAAS).
2. **Improvement of national monitoring systems:** WES database management systems for water, sanitation and hygiene sector in each state have been established with the aim of strengthening monitoring system, and use the information generated to identify the un-served and respond accordingly.
3. **Sudan Country Status Overview:** Sudan government is developing country status overview in collaboration with UNICEF and WSP to pool sector information and provide a regionally consistent and credible guide to investments, policies and processes to get Sudan on track to achieve its national targets and accelerate performance against the MDGs.
4. **Policy and strategic plan:** WASH policy for North Sudan has been finalized, awaiting endorsement by the federal authorities. Similarly, development of 2010-2016 National and 15 state level strategic plans is currently ongoing with technical support from UNICEF, which will be finalized by second quarter of 2010.

## **C National planning processes**

1. **Cross-sectoral analysis of key bottlenecks:** The external funding for the WASH sector mostly has been for emergency response and preparedness since early 1990 as major donors imposed sanctions on Sudan. WASH sector's resource mobilization has been primarily through loans. Government is keen to introduce BOOT system, appropriate tariff policies and collection system for Water supply to support WASH sector development and sustainability in Sudan.
2. **Integrate Water and Sanitation into MTEF and National Plans:** Government extending the commitment to the water sector through allocations in the Medium Term Expenditure Forecast. Water and sanitation will be fully incorporated into national development planning processes.
3. **Addressing of human resource capacity gaps** The National Training centre has been established with support from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and UNICEF to strengthen the institutional capacity and to train necessary human resources for water, sanitation and hygiene in northern Sudan.
4. **Community based planning:** Prioritization of localities within states and prioritization of communities within localities based on pre-determined criteria has been introduced in North Sudan for WASH interventions. Number of communities that could be taken is determined using construction and rehabilitation of water supply system as an entry point and packaging with sanitation and hygiene, and WASH in schools and health facilities within the selected communities. Once a community gets prioritized, community action plan is developed using participatory methods so that communities self identify problems and solutions within their own capacity and possible external support.

## **Sudan Expectations**

Sudan government has embarked on a process at the national level to develop a policy and strategic plan to give clarity and direction, and ascribes accountability for water, sanitation and hygiene development. Government of Sudan is looking to SWA and AMCOW to provide a framework for an exchange of views between governments, donors and international agencies, a forum for the development of global strategies to understand our current situation and the way to move forward to achieve sanitation and water for all. We are coming to Washington to learn, share our experiences, and meet potential new partners. We are hoping that SWA will provide a vehicle for:

- An innovative partnership based on mutual trust and support.
- A framework for action that is transparent, accountable and results-oriented.
- A shared commitment to applying principles of aid effectiveness, including country ownership of plans, supported by development partners.
- An explicit vision of achieving the MDG target based on an attainable ambition, which leads to universal access to water supply and sanitation in Sudan.